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# Open-House & Science-Fair 2016

*School of Natural Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, Dadri*

November 19, 2016

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## Event Report

Under the directive of Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University (SNU) and Director, School of Natural Sciences (SoNS), an *Open-House & Science-Fair Event* was organized on November 19, 2016 (Saturday) at SNU Campus in Dadri. The aim of this event was to spread awareness about the ever increasing career prospects in the Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Physics) in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The event was also meant to expose motivated high-school students to a research driven, multi-disciplinary University, one of its kind in India. It highlighted *research activities*, *scientific demonstrations*, and *career track avenues* in Natural Sciences for young minds, and connected them with resident Undergraduate/Postgraduate (UG/PG) and PhD students for practical discussions regarding these aspects. More than 300 school students and their Science teachers (total count about 330) from 10 reputed schools in the *Delhi-NCR area* (*Bharti Public School*, New Delhi; *Cambridge School*, Greater Noida; *Delhi Public School*, Greater Noida; *G. D.*

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*Goenka Public School, Greater Noida; Greater Valley School, Greater Noida; Pathways School, Noida; Ryan International School, Greater Noida; Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls, New Delhi; Somerville School, Noida and Somerville School, Greater Noida) and beyond (VidyaGyan, Bulandshahr and VidyaGyan, Sitapur) participated in the event. Including in-house participants, the event was attended by about 480 people, making another milestone for the School! Free Meals & Registration for all the attendees and Prizes & Participation Certificates for all the school participants were arranged. The event was co-organized by Dr. Parthapratim Munshi (Chemistry), Dr. Neha Gupta (Mathematics), Dr. Sajal Kumar Ghosh (Physics), Dr. Ashish Gupta (Life Sciences) and Dr. Ashutosh Singh (Life Sciences), with huge support from other Faculty Members, Student Volunteers and the SNU Administration. The event was partially sponsored by ThermoFisher Scientific, Eppendorf, Cemic Root, IKA (Nugen Scientific), Symbio Scientific Private Ltd., SciFinder A CAS Solution, Apex, MacFlow Engineering, Magnus Enterprise, Parshuram Trade Links, Labmate (Asia) Pvt. Ltd., Purnima Scientific Traders and ttplabtech.*



The event started with Registration & Breakfast for *all* participants. The morning and evening sessions were hosted in the state-of-the-art auditorium, B315, in SNU campus. It started with a detailed welcome address by *Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, SNU and Director, SoNS*, which also was an invitation address to kindle young minds to take up Science as a Career.

It was followed by Career Talks, UG Speeches and Subject Quizzes, with a *Photo Session* and *Refreshing Tea Break* at the end. Career Talks and UG Speeches in Chemistry and Life Sciences (chaired by Prof. Deepak Sehgal, HoD, Life Sciences) followed by a Quiz Session (by PG Student Volunteers) on Natural Sciences, Career Talks and UG speeches in Mathematics and Physics (chaired by Prof. Amber Habib, HoD, Mathematics) and a talk on Brain Sciences (chaired by Prof. Sankar Dhar, HoD, Physics) completed the *Morning Session*. The Career Talks were delivered by Dr. Subhabrata Sen (HoD, Chemistry) and Dr. Tobias Toll (Physics), while the talk on Brain Sciences was delivered by Dr. Soumya Pati (Life Sciences) and UG speeches were delivered by Ms. Keerthana A K (Chemistry), Ms. Arushi Bhutani (Life Sciences), Mr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee (Mathematics) and Mr. Tarun Tummuru (Physics).



The *Second Session* started with Advanced Research Facility Tours in Research Block and Laboratory Tours in Chemistry, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Physics Laboratories in A and B-Blocks, in parallel, which showcased the advanced research instruments and innovative undergraduate & research Laboratories in SNU. This was followed by a sumptuous *Lunch for all Participants*, intended to rejuvenate them for the rests of the happenings in the afternoon session! The *Lunch Session* also included OUR (Opportunities for Undergraduate Research) *Poster Presentations* by SNU undergraduates. OUR is a unique program at SNU that allows these young minds to interact with world-class research faculty members and participate in approximately year-long research project, sometimes culminating in publications!



The *Afternoon Session* continued with Advanced Research Facility Tours in Research Block and Laboratory Tours in Chemistry, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Physics in A and B Blocks. All these activities really captivated the attention of the students and many of them conveyed the feeling that *“this was their first exposure to practical science, which transcends textbooks and may motivate them to pursue a career in Science perhaps and in SoNS, SNU!”* Many teachers said that *“they were really interested in planning future visits with some of their other students in the near future and extend collaboration at various levels!”* Some school stated *“A great learning experience where students got to watch concepts taught in class are applied and tested in real-life.”* Such positive feedback indeed leaves a sense of satisfaction that can only come from sharing knowledge with young minds, which in the end was the very purpose of the event!

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The grand event was finally ended in an *Interactive Session* of the school students and their teachers with the faculty members and Prof. Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, SNU & Director of the School, who delivered the *Concluding Remarks*. It was then the time to say goodbye to the guests, who had so livened the day, with Participation Certificates, Mementos and Snack Boxes to keep them going for their return journey!

We sincerely look forward to the successors of this event in the years to come, when even more young minds can be motivated!

### Glimpses of Open-House & Science-Fair 2016 Event

